

CLUTTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILTHE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946.

The report is an ordinary one abbreviated in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres : - 42,645.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population 1946 : 16,880

Number of inhabited houses : - 4,830.

Rateable Value : - £68,977.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : - £275.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	317	172	145
Illegitimate.	15	9	6
	332	181	151
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Rate per 1000 of the population : - 19.66

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	2	1
	=====	=====	=====

Rate per 1000 of births : - .903

Still Births.

It is worthy to note that in 1945 out of 324 total births there were 14 still births, or a rate of 21.60 per 1000 live births. The year 1946 shows a vast improvement on these figures.

Deaths from all Causes.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	4	4
Other forms	-	2
Influenza	1	1
	5	7

<u>Deaths from all causes.</u>		
(continued)		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Cancer of mouth etc.,	5	7
Cancer of uterus. (female)	3	-
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	2
Cancer of breast	6	7
Cancer of all other forms	-	7
Diabetes	6	9
Intra-cranial vascular Lesions	-	1
Heart Disease	13	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory system	35	20
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia	8	6
Other Respiratory diseases	3	3
Ulcer of stomach	3	1
Appendicitis	-	1
Other Digestive diseases	1	-
Nephritis	4	-
Maternal causes	1	3
Premature births	-	1
Congenital malformation,)	2	3
Birth injuries etc.,)	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1
Other violent causes	2	2
All causes	5	12
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	107	104
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Total number of deaths : - 210.

Death rate per 1000 population : - 12.44.

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	-	1
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	5	5
	=====	=====

Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1000 live births : -30.12.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	6	-
Pneumonia	22	-	6
Whooping cough	31	-	-
Measles	19	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
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TOTAL	91	9	6
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<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Respiratory	14	8
Non-respiratory	1	2
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	15	10
	=====	=====

Tuberculosis Register.

The total number of cases on the Register at December 31st, 1946 was -

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
32	29	61

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The estimated number of children under 15 years of age at Mid 1946, was -

Age group 0 - 4	=	1470
" " 5 -14	=	2410
Total		3880
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Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area in the last six months of 1946 was -

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-14 years.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Secondary Reinforcing Injections.</u>
136	25	161	78

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The staff remains the same as before.

Dr. R.V. Brew, Chew Magna. Medical Officer of Health.
Mr. E. Shaw, Pensford. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. Shaw has carried on single handed the many and varied duties which fall to his lot. As year succeeds year these duties do not become less, but he has risen superior to all the calls upon his time and has maintained an adequate supervision and control over all sanitary matters coming to our notice.

Many of these refer to housing matters and require investigation, although it is almost impossible to do more than alleviate the worst cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These remain in much the same condition as before the war. It should be borne in mind that all classes of property have deteriorated in condition very considerably during the war years.

Houses are badly in need of repairs and paint. Whilst drainage systems and water pipes are all that much older and more liable to break down. In my opinion this has given rise to an increase in the number of complaints to be dealt with.

There is an acute shortage of housing in the district and a considerable amount of overcrowding which is very difficult to deal with. Both Mr. Shaw and I are inundated with letters from aggrieved tenants asking for better accommodation; we do our best.

A new procedure appears to have arisen in this connection to wit, writing direct to the County Medical Officer of Health instead of to the Local Authority, or its officers. If only the

writers knew that all these letters are simply sent back to me for "Action Please".

I have made a point of personally answering all these letters and having the complaints investigated. In some cases we have been able to help to some extent. We urgently need more and more new houses as quickly as possible.

WATER.

The water supply of the area remains the same. The quality has been good and the quantity adequate, except in dry spells. But there is a steady increase in the number of consumers and the quantity used.

The time is not far distant when the Council will have to look elsewhere for an addition to its bulk supply of water.

HOUSING. INSPECTION AND CLEARANCE AREAS.

No work has been done under this heading during the year, but many complaints of overcrowding and insanitary conditions have been investigated and steps taken to overcome the worst of the difficulties.

SCAVENGING.

The new scheme instituted from 1st Oct. of public scavenging, plus removal of ashes and other combustible refuse by private contractors appears to be working well and is undoubtedly a great boon to every householder.

COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There has been an all round improvement in the structure, condition, and cleanliness of the above. Quite a number of new cowsheds have been built and the modern cowshed is certainly a great advance upon those in use years ago. In this District milk is still the main product of the farms and the supervision of its quality and cleanliness, both at the farm and on its arrival at the receiving stations becomes closer and more searching every year.

More and more water is used in this connection each year, and this coupled with the very large number of drinking troughs for cattle installed in the fields is one of the largest demands upon our public water supply.

Details of work under many headings carried out and supervised by the Sanitary Inspector are contained in his Annual Report.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Richard V. Brew, M.B., B.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.